



**Little Sisters
of the Poor**
HOSPITALITY AT HEART

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

FALL 2025



Rooted in Love, Renewed in Hope

Around the world, our Little Sisters family is embracing a fresh new look that brings unity to all our Homes and joy to our hearts. But even as our colors and logo change, what remains unshakably constant is the mission entrusted to us by God: to care for the elderly poor with compassion, dignity, and tender love. That mission is the same today as it was in 1839, when Saint Jeanne Jugan welcomed the first elderly woman into her humble home and into her heart.

For more than 185 years, in times of peace and in times of crisis, the Little Sisters of the Poor have walked alongside the forgotten and the fragile. Through wars, through plagues and pandemics, across oceans and generations, our Sisters have said “yes” to God’s call. And every step of the way, He has provided. Not just through material gifts, but through people like you, who become part of this mission with your own “yes.”

Our new logo, now shared by all our Homes across the globe, is not simply a symbol. It is a reflection of who we are. The house at its center is more than a roof, it is the beating heart of our action, where love is lived in the small, quiet moments of daily life. Within it are our Residents, our staff, our Sisters, and you; our helpers, companions, and family.

An outstretched hand reminds us of the support we offer and receive. Whether that hand belongs to a Sister, a volunteer, or a kindhearted donor, it reflects humility, presence, and accompaniment. The dove above is the Holy

Spirit, guiding this work and breathing life into the charism gifted to us through Saint Jeanne Jugan. The hand holding the cane gently honors the elderly themselves, whose wisdom, stories, and sacred dignity are at the center of everything we do.

And then there are the colors, which are warm shades of red-orange and golden yellow. These colors are soft and welcoming, much like the spirit of our Homes. They represent our joy, our hope, and the energy that fuels our work every day. They speak of hospitality, humanity, and deep goodwill for those the world too often forgets.

From France to the Philippines, from Africa to right here in Palatine, this mission continues through God’s Divine Providence and most importantly, through you. Your love, your prayers, and your generosity are woven into every act of kindness that fills our halls. Your support brings an abundance of comfort for our Residents, making St. Joseph’s their Home.

Our mission thrives because you choose to be part of it. You are the hands and heart of Christ in this Home. Together, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are not only preserving the mission, we are renewing it. We are rejoicing in it. We are building a future full of grace, rooted in love, and overflowing with hope.

Thank you for being part of this miracle of love. Thank you for being part of our “little family”.

A Life of Service: Fr. Edmond DesForges



When Father Edmond DesForges arrived at St. Joseph's Home earlier this year, it felt like more than a move, it felt like a homecoming. At 75 years old, this humble Franciscan priest has lived a life devoted entirely to God, serving in schools, parishes, missions, in formation and marriage encounter groups across

the country. Now, he finds himself beginning a new chapter of that journey, surrounded by friendship, prayer, and peace.

Fr. Edmond grew up in a tight-knit French Canadian neighborhood on the south side of Chicago, in a home deeply rooted in Catholic faith. From a young age, he found himself drawn to peace and reflection rather than conflict. Teachers often asked his parents, "Do you think Edmond might become a priest?" And though he felt the gentle pull toward religious life, he waited until his heart was sure.

Eventually, God led him to the Conventual Franciscans, where he embraced a life of simplicity, humility, and joyful service. He taught French and theology, ministered to countless couples, and led formation for the

men entering the Franciscan order for many years. He always went where God needed him, even when it wasn't where he expected to be.

Now living among the Little Sisters of the Poor, Fr. Edmond says he sees the spirit of St. Francis in their daily care. "Their heart goes straight into the ministry," he says. "I feel deeply at home here."

In this season of new beginnings, Fr. Edmond continues to give, offering his prayers, presence, and wisdom. And in turn, he receives the same love and compassion he once gave so freely. "It's humbling," he says. "As Franciscans, we go where the Lord sends us." Fr. Edmond continues to trust in God's will.

CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS DAY!

At St. Joseph's Home, Grandparents Day is more than a date on the calendar. It's a joyful reminder of the love, wisdom, and legacy our Residents bring to our lives. On July 27th, we celebrated the Catholic Church's *World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly*, a day meant to lift up the generation who has given so much, quietly and faithfully, to the world around them.

This year's celebration was filled with laughter, heartfelt visits, and the kind of togetherness that warms the soul. Family members joined us for a beautiful afternoon of connection and celebration. Residents enjoyed one another's company, shared stories, and soaked in the joy of being surrounded by those who love them. The Sisters spent meaningful time with each Resident, offering warm smiles, gentle encouragement, and prayerful companionship. And of course, Big

Bucks Bingo was a highlight, bringing out grins, laughter, and just a touch of friendly competition. One Resident was having so much fun that she donated her winnings back so that they could continue playing!

We also reflected on the spiritual meaning of this day. In honoring grandparents, we remember Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, the holy grandparents of Jesus. Their example reminds us that grandparents hold a sacred role in shaping hearts and guiding generations in faith.

Here at our Home, every Resident is a grandparent to us, a living treasure of prayer, memory, and grace. Grandparents Day reminds us to slow down, cherish those who have paved the way, and thank God for the gift they are to our world.

Thank you to all who made this day so meaningful.



Where Love Lives:

DAILY MOMENTS THAT BIND US TOGETHER

You don't have to travel far to see the heart of the Little Sisters' mission in action. It lives right here, in the quiet moments of the day: in a Sister kneeling beside a Resident to pray the Rosary, in a shared laugh between two neighbors over lunch, in a volunteer who gently combs a Resident's hair like she's her own grandmother.

These moments may seem small, but they are sacred. They are the invisible threads that bind our Home and every Little Sisters' Home around the world into one beautiful tapestry of love.

When we think about the visual change you've seen this year, our new colors, our updated logo, it's easy to focus on the surface. But this fresh new look is just a reflection of something deeper: a renewed commitment to serving the elderly poor with joy, tenderness, and global unity. And that unity is something we see every day, right here in Palatine.

Take Carol, who moved in after spending decades living alone. "I thought I was just getting a room," she told us one afternoon. "I didn't know I'd find a family." Or Mario, who proudly shares stories from his childhood in Italy. Stories that somehow feel familiar to Residents who grew up in Chicago. Despite different languages, cultures,

and pasts, something greater connects them: the presence of love.

From our Home to Homes across the globe, that same spirit lives and breathes in every smile, every shared meal, and every touch of kindness. That's what the Little Sisters have always been about.

So while our appearance may be new, our heart is still the same. And thanks to your friendship, prayers, and support, that heart continues to beat stronger than ever here, and in every corner of the world where love is needed most.

**LOVE GOD VERY MUCH,
SO THAT YOU CAN LOOK
AFTER THE AGED WELL,
FOR IT IS JESUS WHOM
YOU CARE FOR IN THEM.**

- JEANNE JUGAN

SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING

Registration is open for our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing on Monday, September 15th at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington, IL. *St. Joseph is in charge of the weather and he always comes through for us.* Don't wait too long, in recent years, the events were a sell out!

Registration begins at 10:30 am. The driving range and locker rooms will be available for our guests. Be sure to try your luck at the "Putt Against the Sister" contest, *they've been practicing.*

A hot-off the grill lunch will be served until the noon shotgun start. Beverage carts will be roaming the course during the day to provide complimentary refreshments. After golf, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner, will be served on the beautiful patio overlooking the course. Our winners will be presented with our famous fresh sister baked banana bread!

Your support of this event will help us to provide a loving home and quality care for our elderly Residents.



Sign up for a day of golf, outstanding food, raffle prizes, cigars, cocktails, and more now!

Find more information on registrations, sponsorships and/or advertisements, on our website, call 847-358-5700 or email dvpalatine@littlesistersofthepoorpalatine.org.



MOTHER MERCY'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Among many celebrations here this summer, the most unique was an International Day to highlight the wealth of cultures that enrich our lives. Staff members and Residents wore traditional dress and brought in delicious dishes from their homeland: the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, and other Asian countries. The Residents, staff, and Little Sisters all enjoyed this taste of the diversity we experience daily in our home.

Our journey as pilgrims of hope continued this summer with a day of prayer in June led by Fr. Mark Jurzyk from Corpus Christi parish in Carol Stream. He gave us a very good explanation of the Jubilee year of Hope and the Church's teaching on the practice of indulgences. This prepared us for our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, where we spent a quiet moment of prayer together. It was a simple but beautiful moment of prayer and friendship.

At the end of July, we were overjoyed to have nine young women profess their final vows as Little Sisters of the Poor at our Motherhouse in France. I invite you to pray each day for vocations to our Congregation, especially on August 30, the Feast of St. Jeanne Jugan. Our greatest need is for more Little Sisters!

Thank you for all you do, whether it is through prayer, financial support, or volunteering! We pray for you every day!

M. Mercy



At St. Joseph's Home, family means more than shared walls. Family means shared hearts, traditions, and stories. On International Day, we celebrated the beautiful cultures that make up our Home, with music, dancing, traditional dress, and delicious food from around the world. Laughter echoed through the halls as Residents and staff proudly shared pieces of their heritage, reminding us all how rich our differences make us.

This day was made even more special as we celebrated the anniversary of our Home here in Palatine, which first opened its doors in 1966. For 58 years, this Home has welcomed people from every background with warmth and love.

As we looked around the room full of color, joy, and connection, it was clear that this is what Saint Jeanne Jugan dreamed of: a place where everyone feels seen, known, and loved.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Ten Week Sweepstakes**
Tickets Enclosed
Sept. 5th- Nov. 7th, 2025
\$500 Weekly Prizes
\$5,000 Grand Prize
- **Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing**
Monday, Sept. 15th, 2025
The Club at Wynstone
North Barrington, IL
- **St. Joseph's Home for the Holidays Wine Tasting**
Thursday, Nov. 6th, 2025
at our Home in Palatine
- **#GivingTuesday**
Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025

NEEDED ITEMS!

Scan the QR Code below to
view our Amazon Wishlist
or find it on our Website!



Wishlist is updated frequently!